

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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23 MARCH 1964
~~TOP SECRET~~

LATE ITEM

Cambodia

a. It is not clear what Sihanouk plans next following his visit to Chantrea and receipt of the US note of explanation and regret.

b. In a 90-minute recorded speech he struck out in several directions, suggesting that he would give the USSR and France a week to show some progress in commencing a conference at Geneva.

c. Later he dealt with the necessity of negotiating with the Communists on Cambodia's territorial integrity.

d. He also demanded bulldozers as compensation for the injury to life in Chantrea.

1. Libya

a. King Idris' ploy seems to have paid off for him, at least temporarily.

b. Saturday night he publicly withdrew his private threat to abdicate, which he claimed he had made because he was getting "old."

c. Idris made this announcement after an impressive array of Libyan notables had followed him to Tobruk to urge him to change his mind.

d. It remains to be seen, however, how long the King will be able to continue to play his central, stabilizing role in Libyan politics and not be swept up by the tide of Arab nationalism now running in his country.

e. We are still puzzling the significance of an Egyptian news agency dispatch from Tripoli yesterday reporting that both houses of parliament have been summoned to hold an extraordinary meeting tonight at Baida.

2. Panama

a. Our UN delegation is quite disturbed over the possibility that Panama is considering renewed Security Council action on its complaint against the US.

b. The delegation thinks that any transfer from the OAS to this forum would mean that we would have to accept a formula less satisfactory than that worked out by the OAS or use the first US veto against a member of the western hemisphere family.

c. Panamanian Ambassador to the UN, Boyd, returned suddenly to Panama last week where we presume he is urging again that the canal issue be taken to the UN. The rabid nationalist Boyd has presidential ambitions.

d. Meanwhile, the Communist infested student congress met over the weekend and dispersed without important incident.

3. South Vietnam

a. General Khanh has successfully staged an unanimous vote of confidence in his rule by the Military Revolutionary Council (MRC).

b. Yesterday the Council voted 53 to 0 to re-elect Khanh as its chairman.

(Cont'd)

c. [] sug-
gested he would use such a vote as
a mandate to replace some cabinet
officials who were not keeping their
noses to the grindstone. []
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d. Khanh []
[] would try to discourage coup
plotting and present a more demo-
cratic facade by enlarging the MRC
and allowing it to vote on the govern-
ment in about six months.

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4. Laos

a. The neutralists and right-
ists are at it again.

b. Rightist authorities arrested
several neutralists in Vientiane in
the last few days following the assas-
sination of rightist Major Praseuth.

c. Premier Souvanna Phouma
then threatened that if these men
were not released by 24 March, he
would pull out of Vientiane with his
followers and head for the Plaine
des Jarres.

d. A few of the prisoners have
now been released and our embassy
doubts that Souvanna will leave unless
there are further provocations.

(Cont'd)

e. Even so, the atmosphere remains tense. Rumors that the local right-wing strong man, General Kouprasith, is planning a coup may add to Souvanna's concerns.

5. Cyprus

a. Things were relatively quiet on the island over the week-end.

b. Gyani is now expected to assume command of the UN force on Thursday.

c. Advance contingents for the force from Sweden, Finland and Ireland are supposed to arrive shortly thereafter.

d. The unpromising search for a mediator continues. The name currently being bandied about is that of Toumioja, the present Finnish Ambassador to Stockholm.

6. Aden-Yemen

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7. Saudi Arabia

a. Prince Faysal appears to have won the latest round in his long bout with Kind Saud.

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c.

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Saud is planning to leave the country today though we doubt that it will be on Faysal's terms.

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- B. Mexico Foreign Minister Tello has confirmed that his resignation will be effective prior to 5 April with the inference that he will be running for Senator. Undersecretary Gorostiza will probably be Acting Foreign Minister during the remaining months of the Mateos administration and no significant changes in policy are expected.

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- D. India-Pakistan The communal riots in northeastern India are continuing. The situation at Rourkela in Orissa State appears to have been brought under control following army intervention but trouble persists elsewhere. The Indian Home Minister has admitted to parliament that the death toll in the rioting has risen to at least 200.

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